

National Handicap Pairs



Sunday
10th September 2023

Commentary:

Gordon Rainsford and Jonathan Lillycrop

<p>♠ 10654 ♥ 85 ♦ Q652 ♣ AK4</p> <p>♠ KQ ♠ AJ872 ♥ QJ7 ♥ K6 ♦ AJ109874 ♦ - ♣ 2 ♣ Q109853</p> <p>♠ 93 ♥ A109432 ♦ K3 ♣ J76</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		9		N	-	-	-	-	-	13	10	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	3	3	-	3	2		8	W	3	3	-	3	2	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is one plausible auction although it gets you too high. Although in practice you might be allowed to make 3NT, that is unlikely. For Easts who consider discretion to be the better part of valour, it may be possible to stay in a making part-score, but I confess I would be unlikely to be so restrained!</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	1♣	2♥	3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass						
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
9		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
13	10	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																														
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<p>♠ 43 ♥ 2 ♦ K108642 ♣ J642</p> <p>♠ KJ62 ♠ 10985 ♥ 106 ♥ QJ743 ♦ AJ ♦ 95 ♣ A10983 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ AQ7 ♥ AK985 ♦ Q73 ♣ K5</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>5</td> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>18</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		4		N	-	4	-	-	2	13	5	S	1	4	-	-	3			E	-	-	1	1	-		18	W	-	-	1	1	-	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In truth there are many different ways this auction might go, and I'm sure many would be horrified at the idea of overcalling 2♣ with the West hand, but it's likely to end up with West playing in spades or North playing in Diamonds. In spades, West has difficulty getting into the East hand to take finesses, though a second club loser can be avoided by finessing against North's Jack – lead a small club from hand and when the King doesn't appear, play low from dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠	All Pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																			
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																															
4		N	-	4	-	-	2																																																														
13	5	S	1	4	-	-	3																																																														
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<p>♠ A96 ♥ J863 ♦ 64 ♣ Q765</p> <p>♠ QJ1074 ♠ K8 ♥ - ♥ AKQ95 ♦ KJ98752 ♦ Q ♣ 8 ♣ A10432</p> <p>♠ 532 ♥ 10742 ♦ A103 ♣ KJ9</p>	<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Almost anything could happen on this hand, but this is one way some pairs might get to the top spot. Nothing looks right on the West hand for the first round of bidding, and on the third round 2♦ would be fourth-suit forcing for most pairs, so the only real rebid available would be 2♠, after which East is likely to raise to game and the cards are friendly enough that it will make.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass																		
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																		

HCP		Makeable contracts					
7	18		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	8	N	-	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	1	5	2	5	2
		W	1	5	1	5	2

<p>♠ KJ653 ♥ 98543 ♦ - ♣ A64</p> <p>♠ Q987 ♠ 102 ♥ K76 ♥ J102 ♦ 72 ♦ A98654 ♣ KJ52 ♣ 93</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ AQ ♦ KQJ103 ♣ Q1087</p>	<p>Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If East doesn't open 2♦, NS are likely to end up playing in 3NT by South after something like:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The likely club or heart leads won't do South any harm and NS may well end up with an overtrick.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♦	2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass				West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																																						
Pass	Pass	2♦	2NT																																						
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠																																						
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠																																						
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West	North	East	South																																						
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦																																						
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♣																																						
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT																																						
All Pass																																									

HCP		Makeable contracts					
8	5		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	18	N	4	2	3	3	3
		S	4	2	3	4	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q108763 ♥ - ♦ A8 ♣ AQ1098</p> <p>♠ AK ♠ J9 ♥ J83 ♥ K106542 ♦ J1094 ♦ KQ72 ♣ 7652 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ 542 ♥ AQ97 ♦ 653 ♣ K43</p>	<p>Board 5: Dealer North: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Not everyone would overcall on the East hand, but it doesn't matter much as with such a distributional hand North will bid game with the slightest excuse.</p> <p>East appears to need to lead the singleton ♣J to get a ruff and hold the contract to ten tricks, although a diamond lead may be good enough as declarer will then have to lead a round of clubs to discard the losing diamond on the ♥A, which gives the defenders the same opportunity to get a club ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
	1♠	2♥	2♠										
3♥	4♠	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
12	10		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	9	N	4	-	-	4	2
		S	4	-	-	4	2
		E	-	2	2	-	-
		W	-	2	2	-	-

<p>♠ 2 ♥ QJ109643 ♦ 95 ♣ A106</p> <p>♠ 10974 ♠ AK865 ♥ - ♥ A8 ♦ 764 ♦ K1082 ♣ K98752 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ QJ3 ♥ K752 ♦ AQJ3 ♣ QJ</p>	<p>Board 6: Dealer East: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Traditional four-card major players will just bid as shown, but those who play five-card majors or who show minors before majors will have an extra round of bidding before getting to the same spot, but played by North.</p> <p>If it's played by South and gets a club lead, it's possible to take 12 tricks but this does require the courage to run the opening lead around to hand. Since East is unlikely to have passed with a seven-card club suit, and the defenders only have two trumps between them, the risk of a club ruff is not great.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	1♥										
Pass	4♥	All Pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
7			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
3	14	N	-	1	5	-	2
		S	-	1	5	-	2
		E	1	-	-	1	-
		W	1	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ A752 ♥ J93 ♦ 9 ♣ KQJ104</p> <p>♠ KQ1096 ♠ - ♥ 2 ♥ AKQ864 ♦ A832 ♦ KQ6 ♣ 982 ♣ A653</p> <p>♠ J843 ♥ 1075 ♦ J10754 ♣ 7</p>	<p>Board 7: Dealer South: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>NT and hearts both make 10 tricks and both need the hearts to break, so you might as well be in NT if you are going to be in game, which I imagine all EWs will be with 27hcp between the hands.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																						
			Pass																						
Pass	1♣	1♥	Pass																						
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass																						
2♦	Pass	3♥	Pass																						
3NT	All Pass																								

HCP		Makeable contracts					
11			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9	18	N	-	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	3	5	4	3	4
		W	3	5	4	3	4

<p>♠ J4 ♥ AKQ952 ♦ J9 ♣ J54</p> <p>♠ Q10953 ♠ A762 ♥ 76 ♥ 104 ♦ 52 ♦ Q1087 ♣ K863 ♣ A97</p> <p>♠ K8 ♥ J83 ♦ AK643 ♣ Q102</p>	<p>Board 8: Dealer West: Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Any Easts clever and brave enough to underlead their ♠A at trick 1 will deserve a top from getting the contract off – unless they agonise so much before doing it that an equally clever declarer works out what's going on!</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦														
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥														
All Pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
12			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
5	10	N	-	2	4	-	3
		S	-	2	4	-	3
		E	-	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ 8752 ♥ J95 ♦ A108 ♣ 432</p> <p>♠ QJ10 ♠ 6 ♥ AQ104 ♥ K8763 ♦ 9 ♦ 76543 ♣ A10765 ♣ KJ</p> <p>♠ AK943 ♥ 2 ♦ KQJ2 ♣ Q98</p>	<p>Board 9: Dealer North: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The West hand and the club suit are not good enough for a 2♣ overcall, but after passing it's very hard to find the EW heart fit, especially if South makes a game try. It depends on style, but the traditional way to try for game was to bid the suit where you are looking for help – hence 3♣ and not 3♦.</p> <p>If EW play <i>Equal Level Conversion</i>, then West can start with a takeout double (intending to convert back to 2♥ if partner inconveniently bids 2♦) and in this case the heart fit is found, though they probably won't reach game unless pushed.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	1♠														
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣														
Pass	3♠	All Pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
5	7	N	-	-	-	2	-
13		S	-	-	-	2	-
	15	E	3	-	5	-	1
		W	3	-	5	-	1

<p>♠ Q1097642 ♥ 107 ♦ 10 ♣ 1063</p> <p>♠ 85 ♠ AKJ ♥ J953 ♥ AKQ64 ♦ 985 ♦ 43 ♣ AJ94 ♣ Q87</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ 82 ♦ AKQJ762 ♣ K52</p>	<p>Board 10: Dealer East: All vulnerable</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>After South's overcall, West's jump raise shows less than it would in an uncontested auction as there is now a 3♦ <i>Unassuming Cue-Bid (UCB)</i> available to show a proper limit raise. The East hand is so good that 4♥ is going to be rebid regardless.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	2♦	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass
West	North	East	South										
		1♥	2♦										
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
2	19	N	-	1	-	-	-
6		S	-	1	-	-	-
	13	E	3	-	4	-	-
		W	3	-	4	-	-

<p>♠ J2 ♥ 1083 ♦ 642 ♣ 109753</p> <p>♠ K874 ♠ A93 ♥ KJ52 ♥ 96 ♦ 83 ♦ AKQ1097 ♣ K64 ♣ AJ</p> <p>♠ Q1065 ♥ AQ74 ♦ J5 ♣ Q82</p>	<p>Board 11: Dealer South: Love all</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dble</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rdble</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3Nt</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With both heart honours onside, EW can make 12 tricks in NT, and South's double suggests that might well be the case, but it seems rather a lot to bid.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble	Rdble	2♣	3♦	Pass	3Nt	All Pass		
West	North	East	South																		
			Pass																		
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dble																		
Rdble	2♣	3♦	Pass																		
3Nt	All Pass																				

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
1	18	N	-	-	-	-	-
10		S	-	-	-	-	-
	11	E	3	6	4	5	6
		W	3	6	4	5	6

<p>♠ Q8 ♥ J1092 ♦ A108 ♣ 7632</p> <p>♠ A10962 ♠ J75 ♥ AK8 ♥ Q73 ♦ 74 ♦ KQ653 ♣ QJ4 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ K43 ♥ 654 ♦ J92 ♣ 10985</p>	<p>Board 12: Dealer West: NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠/3NT</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are a number of opportunities to exercise judgement on this hand: some would open a weak NT on the West hand, others a strong NT, while many would open 1♠. Having opened 1♠ I would upgrade the hand to rebid 2NT showing a strong hand, and then on the next round there is a decision to be made as to whether to play in spades or NT. Since they both make the same number of tricks it's better to play in NT on this occasion. Maybe East would just raise 2NT to 3NT, or even to 4NT if West's 2NT rebid is 15-19, as is played by many Acol players.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠/3NT	All Pass																												
West	North	East	South																																								
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass																																								
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass																																								
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<p>♠ K654 ♥ KQ854 ♦ A ♣ A96</p> <p>♠ Q872 ♠ 3 ♥ A72 ♥ J96 ♦ K8 ♦ QJ9643 ♣ J1043 ♣ 852</p> <p>♠ AJ109 ♥ 103 ♦ 10752 ♣ KQ7</p>	<p>Board 13: Dealer North: All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>A 4♦ splinter bid from North does make the South hand look good, but there is nothing available to indicate interest in moving forward and that might be just as well on this hand, where you can be held to 11 tricks. In practice I imagine anything from 10-12 tricks will appear in the list of results.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass																													
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<p>♠ 1083 ♥ A1074 ♦ 6543 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ AQJ96 ♠ K754 ♥ 9 ♥ Q8632 ♦ K87 ♦ 9 ♣ KQJ5 ♣ 1092</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ KJ5 ♦ AQJ102 ♣ 7643</p>	<p>Board 14: Dealer East: Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">West</td> <td style="width: 15%;">North</td> <td style="width: 15%;">East</td> <td style="width: 15%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Dble</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td colspan="3">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is one auction to the top spot for EW, but as it happens NS have a good save in 5♦. If defending that, West would need to lead the singleton heart (fairly obvious) and then underlead the spades to get a heart ruff, which requires a little faith that partner will have the ♠K. By that stage, it's probable that East must have this card to justify having bid at all.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass																												
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<p>♠AQ65 ♥54 ♦KJ854 ♣103</p> <p>♠K102 ♠84 ♥J986 ♥AKQ1073 ♦72 ♦A9 ♣AQ75 ♣962</p> <p>♠J973 ♥2 ♦Q1063 ♣KJ84</p>	<p>Board 15: Dealer South: NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Third-in-hand it seems reasonable for North to open the bidding, even vulnerable, which allows South to make a pre-emptive raise and put pressure on East/West. It might even get West to bid 4♥, which is one too many, because he would bid 3♥ on this auction with rather less.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass																																		
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<p>♠AK9 ♥9652 ♦108 ♣K843</p> <p>♠7632 ♠QJ10 ♥Q104 ♥AJ87 ♦KQ43 ♦652 ♣Q7 ♣J102</p> <p>♠854 ♥K3 ♦AJ97 ♣A965</p>	<p>Board 16: Dealer West: EW vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is the likely auction for weak-NTers, but those playing a strong NT will open a minor and rebid 1NT, getting to the same spot. A spade lead from West is likely to be better for the defence than a diamond on this occasion, as it allows West's fourth spade to be set up while there are still entries to enjoy it.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass																																							
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<p>♠A5 ♥AK32 ♦1084 ♣J1064</p> <p>♠J63 ♠Q87 ♥98 ♥J764 ♦AKJ765 ♦Q ♣K3 ♣Q9875</p> <p>♠K10942 ♥Q105 ♦932 ♣A2</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks a normal auction for weak NT players. With spades breaking 3-3, 8 tricks looks easy for declarer. Some West players may choose to overcall 3♦ non vulnerable and if so that is likely to end the auction. 7 tricks and 2 down will be a good result for East/West at Matchpoints. -100 instead of -110.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass																																					
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<p>♠ 964 ♥ K7 ♦ KQ5 ♣ AKJ93</p> <p>♠ A2 ♠ Q108753 ♥ Q104 ♥ J5 ♦ J107432 ♦ 986 ♣ 104 ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ KJ ♥ A98632 ♦ A ♣ Q852</p>	<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>If East/West do not bid then this is one possible auction for North/South. South could rebid 2♥ but with such a poor suit I think it is better to raise clubs which also promises a 5th heart, partner should have at least 4 clubs in this situation.</p> <p>If East/West are aggressive then East might open 2♠ or West might bid 3♦ over 1♥. A 3♦ overcall won't worry North/South as North has a good stop. A 2♠ opening gives South a problem as they will be reluctant to overcall 3♥ vulnerable with this suit quality, if South passes North also doesn't have a clear bid with no spade stop. So possibly a couple of Easts might get to play 2♠ although I expect in practice North or South will find a bid.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
West	North	East	South														
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W	-	-	-	-	-																										
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<p>♠ A108642 ♥ KJ74 ♦ 83 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ Q5 ♠ KJ97 ♥ Q63 ♥ 85 ♦ J942 ♦ AK107 ♣ Q842 ♣ AJ6</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ A1092 ♦ Q65 ♣ K9753</p>	<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are a number of possibilities on this hand. North might bid in 3rd seat at favourable vulnerability, either weak 2♠ or 1♠ to keep hearts as a possibility. If North opens 1♠ or 2♠ East can bid no trumps at the lowest level and that will probably end the auction.</p> <p>The above is a possible Acol auction if North passes. East has a decision on the 2nd round whether to pass or bid 2NT. Here the conservative view will work better as 2♦ is more likely to make than 2NT, North/South need to get 2 spade ruffs to defeat 2♦.</p> <p>Although Hearts is the best contract I doubt many will find it.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦	All pass		
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S	-	-	3	1	-																										
E	-	1	-	-	-																										
W	-	1	-	-	-																										
7 16																															
9																															

<p>♠ AQ43 ♥ KJ65 ♦ KJ ♣ AQ6</p> <p>♠ 65 ♠ KJ108 ♥ Q9742 ♥ A103 ♦ 9752 ♦ 3 ♣ J9 ♣ K10752</p> <p>♠ 972 ♥ 8 ♦ AQ10864 ♣ 843</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>East is likely to give declarer their 9th trick on the lead. If East does manage to lead a diamond which is the only lead which doesn't cost a trick then declarer needs to play a heart to the Jack when they are in dummy after running the diamonds to set up their 9th trick. Depending on discards declarer might take the club finesse but in practice this will probably work as East will have to play something back and East will have been struggling for discards on 6 rounds of diamonds.</p> <p>If East leads a spade or club to start with then declarer may well now make 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
West	North	East	South						
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT						

HCP	Makeable contracts																														
20	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	5	-	3	4	S	-	4	-	1	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	1	-	-
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																										
N	1	5	-	3	4																										
S	-	4	-	1	4																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																										
W	-	-	1	-	-																										
3 11																															
6																															

<p>♠ K83 ♥ Q86 ♦ K732 ♣ Q64</p> <p>♠ 76 ♠ QJ105 ♥ K1054 ♥ A9 ♦ 1065 ♦ Q84 ♣ AKJ9 ♣ 10753</p> <p>♠ A942 ♥ J732 ♦ AJ9 ♣ 82</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td colspan="3">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This hand might pass out. Playing weak NT West might open 1NT and if so that will probably end the auction. Provided North/South play diamonds correctly then West in 1NT will lose 4 diamonds, 1 club and 2 spades for 1 down.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	Pass	Pass										
1NT	All pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	-	1	1	1	1
11	9	S	-	1	1	1	1
	10	E	1	-	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ Q742 ♥ J1083 ♦ 10 ♣ A1084</p> <p>♠ A865 ♠ J1093 ♥ A64 ♥ - ♦ K92 ♦ Q543 ♣ KQ5 ♣ J7632</p> <p>♠ K ♥ KQ9752 ♦ AJ876 ♣ 9</p>	<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td colspan="2">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>There is a saying "6-5 come alive" and this certainly applies to the South hand here! Partner has a great fit with 4 hearts and singleton diamond. South might even bid 4♥ over 2♥ but may be wary of the 1NT overcall on their left. If South makes a trial bid with 3♦ then North should bid 4♥ with the singleton as they know South can ruff diamonds in their hand. Even if West leads Ace of hearts and another heart to cut down the diamond ruffs South can still ruff 2 diamonds and then lose a diamond to set up the 5th diamond.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	1NT	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All pass	
West	North	East	South														
		Pass	1♥														
1NT	2♥	Pass	3♦														
Pass	4♥	All pass															

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7		N	-	-	4	-	1
16	4	S	-	-	4	-	1
	13	E	3	-	-	1	-
		W	3	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ AQJ4 ♥ A975 ♦ 83 ♣ 1085</p> <p>♠ 963 ♠ 10852 ♥ J10 ♥ Q86 ♦ Q10642 ♦ K ♣ AQJ ♣ K9432</p> <p>♠ K7 ♥ K432 ♦ AJ975 ♣ 76</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>For some people South's 2♥ bid here might only promise 3 card support and so North would bid 2NT to invite game whilst also checking if partner has 3 or 4 hearts. Here partner has 4 hearts but a minimum hand and so would bid 3♥. With hearts 3-2 this should be a fairly straight forward 9 tricks. On a spade lead declarer can make 10 tricks by drawing 2 rounds of trumps and then throwing clubs on spades allowing them to then ruff 2 clubs in dummy.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥	All pass			
West	North	East	South																		
			1♦																		
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥																		
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥																		
All pass																					

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11		N	-	2	3	2	1
10	8	S	-	2	3	2	1
	11	E	1	-	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ 8643 ♥ K86 ♦ Q1062 ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ KJ7 ♠ 952 ♥ QJ1052 ♥ A3 ♦ - ♦ KJ73 ♣ Q9854 ♣ KJ72</p> <p>♠ AQ10 ♥ 974 ♦ A9854 ♣ 63</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>West may be tempted to open with only 9 points as West given their 5-5 shape and their void. If they do they will have a difficult decision over East's 3♦ bid whether to bid 3NT or lie about their spade stop and bid 4♣.</p> <p>If West passes 2♥ by East will be the most likely contract.</p> <p>Pairs who bid and make 5♣ will deservedly score very well. To make 5♣ declarer will need to take the heart finesse and then ruff the 3rd round of hearts to set up the last two hearts. With both ♠A and ♠Q with South declarer can only ever lose one spade trick.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass														
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass														
3NT	All pass																

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
9		N	-	-	-	-	-
9	12	S	-	-	-	-	-
	10	E	5	-	4	1	1
		W	5	-	3	1	1

<p>♠ Q743 ♥ A6 ♦ A98 ♣ Q632</p> <p>♠ KJ986 ♠ A10 ♥ Q743 ♥ KJ52 ♦ Q63 ♦ 1052 ♣ 10 ♣ J854</p> <p>♠ 52 ♥ 1098 ♦ KJ74 ♣ AK97</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>Double dummy says you can make 9 tricks but that requires seeing all 4 hands! If East leads a heart then the defence have set up 3 heart tricks to go with their 2 spades so declarer can't afford to lose a diamond trick if they are to make 2NT. In practice declarer will most likely play clubs and then take the finesse in diamonds and go one off in 2NT.</p> <p>In clubs declarer should play a club to the Ace and when they see the ♣T which is a larger pip than you might expect it is more likely the shortage is that side so then play a club to the Queen and now declarer knows to finesse on the 3rd round.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	2NT
West	North	East	South						
	1NT	Pass	2NT						

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12		N	4	3	-	-	3
8	9	S	4	3	-	-	3
	11	E	-	-	1	-	-
		W	-	-	1	-	-

<p>♠ 8 ♥ 10642 ♦ AQ754 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ QJ653 ♠ K72 ♥ AQ853 ♥ - ♦ 83 ♦ KJ10962 ♣ 3 ♣ J1098</p> <p>♠ A1094 ♥ KJ97 ♦ - ♣ AKQ62</p>	<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>All pass</p> <p>A heart contract for North/South is not going to be much fun with trumps breaking 5-0! Declarer will do best if they play to try and ruff spades in hand and set up dummy. Even if West gets in by ruffing a club they can't draw trumps without giving up trump tricks so 8 tricks for 1 down should be possible.</p> <p>Even if East does not open 2♦ the auction is likely to lead to the same contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	2♦	Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
West	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	2♦	Dbl										
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥										

HCP		Makeable contracts					
			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
6		N	3	-	2	-	1
9	8	S	3	-	2	-	1
	17	E	-	-	-	1	-
		W	-	-	-	1	-

♠ A53 ♥ A1084 ♦ 8 ♣ J9873 ♠ Q106 ♥ 652 ♦ J ♣ AK10642 ♠ J8 ♥ KJ3 ♦ KQ105432 ♣ Q		♠ K9742 ♥ Q97 ♦ A976 ♣ 5																																													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		HCP		9		10	9	12		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	3	2	-	-	S	-	3	2	-	-	E	-	-	-	1	-	W	-	-	-	1	-
HCP																																															
9																																															
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	-	3	2	-	-																																										
S	-	3	2	-	-																																										
E	-	-	-	1	-																																										
W	-	-	-	1	-																																										

Board 27: Dealer South: Love all

West North East South

2♣ Dbl Pass 1♦

All pass 2♦

All pass

On this auction West is likely to lead a top club and then probably switch to a spade when they see dummy and the club position. Presuming declarer wins that and plays a diamond they need to play to the King or Queen to avoid losing to the singleton Jack. It will then come down to which way declarer finesses hearts as to whether they make the overtrick or not.

♠ A6 ♥ J10 ♦ AK ♣ AK107642 ♠ Q9752 ♥ 743 ♦ Q86 ♣ Q5 ♠ KJ108 ♥ K95 ♦ J73 ♣ J83		♠ 43 ♥ AQ862 ♦ 109542 ♣ 9																																													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		HCP		19		6	6	9		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	6	1	2	3	6	S	6	1	2	3	6	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-
HCP																																															
19																																															
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	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	6	1	2	3	6																																										
S	6	1	2	3	6																																										
E	-	-	-	-	-																																										
W	-	-	-	-	-																																										

Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable

West North East South

Pass 1♣ 2NT Pass

3♥ 4♣ Pass 5♣

All pass

2NT here is the *Unusual 2NT* showing 5-5 in the lowest 2 unbid suits. 6♣ and 6NT are good contracts but hard to reach, pairs that do will no doubt score well. The play is straight forward in any contract as both hearts are with East and so declarer can't go wrong in the heart suit.

♠ AJ104 ♥ K9854 ♦ 10 ♣ 732 ♠ Q72 ♥ AQ6 ♦ AJ532 ♣ K9 ♠ 53 ♥ J732 ♦ K86 ♣ AQ106		♠ K986 ♥ 10 ♦ Q974 ♣ J854																																													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		HCP		8		16	6	10		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	1	-	2	-	-	S	1	-	3	-	-	E	-	4	-	2	1	W	-	4	-	2	2
HCP																																															
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16	6																																														
10																																															
Makeable contracts																																															
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																										
N	1	-	2	-	-																																										
S	1	-	3	-	-																																										
E	-	4	-	2	1																																										
W	-	4	-	2	2																																										

Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable

West North East South

1♦ Pass 1♠ Dbl

1NT 2♥ 3♦ All pass

There are lots of ways this could go and East/West could end up in diamonds or North/South in hearts.

North/South might compete to the level of the fit and bid to 3♥. If they do get to 3♥ by North then East needs to lead a club to beat the contract. Declarer can then not avoid losing 2 trumps (or 1 trump and a club ruff), 1 club, 1 spade and 1 diamond.

If West is playing in diamonds then they need to play ♦Q on the first round of diamonds and run it if it isn't covered. If West starts with a small diamond to the Jack they will find they can't draw trumps for no loser as well as ruff 2 hearts.

<p>♠ QJ87 ♥ J93 ♦ 1043 ♣ Q82</p> <p>♠ K5 ♠ 10943 ♥ K7 ♥ 108652 ♦ Q875 ♦ J92 ♣ K9643 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ A62 ♥ AQ4 ♦ AK6 ♣ AJ105</p>	<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North might bid Stayman but with 4-3-3-3 shape it is likely to be easier to make 9 tricks in 3NT than 10 tricks in 4♠.</p> <p>West will need to lead a diamond or switch to a diamond the first time they are back on lead in order to hold this to 9 tricks. Otherwise declarer can potentially make 3 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 3 clubs for 10 tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass	
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	2NT										
Pass	3NT	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
6			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
11	1	N	2	2	2	3	3
		S	2	3	2	3	3
		E	-	-	-	-	-
		W	-	-	-	-	-

<p>♠ A10876 ♥ J53 ♦ KQ86 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ K ♠ QJ4 ♥ AQ107 ♥ 986 ♦ A973 ♦ J ♣ QJ86 ♣ AK10954</p> <p>♠ 9532 ♥ K42 ♦ 10542 ♣ 72</p>	<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>If the auction has gone as above then the defence will likely start with a spade to the Ace and a spade return. Declarer will now just lose one heart trick for a total of 11 tricks.</p> <p>If North can find a diamond switch at trick 2 then this will put pressure on declarer as they will be worried about North also having the ♥K for their bid and so declarer might settle for their 10 top tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣	2♠	3♠	Pass	3NT	All pass
West	North	East	South														
			Pass														
1♦	1♠	2♣	2♠														
3♠	Pass	3NT	All pass														

HCP		Makeable contracts					
10			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
16	11	N	-	-	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-	-	-
		E	6	1	5	-	4
		W	6	1	5	-	4

<p>♠ J963 ♥ AQJ83 ♦ AK84 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 108 ♠ AK2 ♥ 97 ♥ K10652 ♦ QJ107 ♦ 92 ♣ J10974 ♣ K83</p> <p>♠ Q754 ♥ 4 ♦ 653 ♣ AQ652</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>North</td> <td>East</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>North/South can easily get too high on this hand. Other than the spade fit their hands do not fit together well. South might take a more pessimistic view and leave the contract in 3♠ although even that will be difficult to make.</p> <p>With both clubs and diamonds unbid West will have to decide which minor to lead and declarer will get a helping hand if West leads a club.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠														
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠														
All Pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
15			♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
4	13	N	-	2	1	3	2
		S	-	2	1	3	2
		E	1	-	-	-	-
		W	1	-	-	-	-